



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

*Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson,
Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and
St. Tammany Parishes, LA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years), to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

The Southeast Louisiana Regional Brownfields Program is an ongoing cooperative effort of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and its member parish governments that surround the city of New Orleans. Each parish has high levels of poverty and unemployment: between 14% and 23% of the area's population lives below the poverty line, while unemployment rates reach 8%. Per capita annual incomes range from \$9,500 to \$13,600. The Region continues to experience an out-migration of its skilled labor and increasing poverty. To date, over 30 candidate brownfields sites have been identified.

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The BCRLF will be used to foster the cleanup and redevelopment of the Region's brownfields sites. It is anticipated that these efforts will have positive economic and environmental impacts at the local and regional levels. The BCRLF program is an integral part of the RPC's comprehensive strategy to provide practical tools that can be used by private and public

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$500,000

BCRLF Target Area:
Locations throughout the
Parishes of the Regional
Planning Commission

Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany Parishes, LA

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/Region06/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

organizations to create positive changes in the Region's neighborhoods.

A potential BCRLF project is the Jefferson Lake Canal site, an abandoned marine lot owned by the municipality, that could be redeveloped into a new public boat launch and recreation area.

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The RPC will serve as the lead agency, the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) will be the fund manager, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LaDEQ) will be the BCRLF site manager.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

The BCRLF will amplify the efforts of the RPC, whose operating budget for 2001 is \$4.2 million. Complementary resources will come from LaDEQ and the Army Corps of Engineers in the form of Targeted Site Assessments. Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development may provide funding and tax benefits for potential projects. Federal funds will be sought from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Economic Development Administration, and the Small Business Administration.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
